A LETTER TO THE AUTHOR OF THE DEFENCE OF EXETER COLLEGE,

By Way of NOTES upon his PAMPHLET.

Interſperſed with SERIOUS ADVICE.

LONDON,
Printed for R. BALDWIN, at the *Roſe* in *Pater-noſter Row*. MDCCLV.

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MAY, 28, 1913
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A

LETTER, &c.

SIR,

I MAKE no Apology for ſuppoſing that you was authoriſed by *Exeter* College to publiſh their Defence; for otherwiſe you could not write with any tolerable Propriety, *That the College would act the ſame Part again, was a like Occaſion to offer:* Yet don't imagine, that I fix upon the College, as party-concerned, in order to vilify and abuſe the whole Society indiſcriminately. Such an infamous Way of Writing I ſcorn and deteſt; and therefore can take no Pleaſure in it. Beſides, when Paſſion does not get the better of Reaſon, a Man will be ſtudious to avoid the Fault he is diſpleaſed with finding in another Perſon: And let that Remark be their Security, that I don't intend to loſe Sight of the Reſpect due to them; nor of your Station in Life; nor to forget my own Credit; for it is very far from being worth while to recede from the Character 23.

one ought to bear on any Party-affair whatſoever. It has indeed been pronounced, perhaps to your Mortification, that the Pamphlet deſerves no Notice: But it is no Crime to be of a contrary Opinion; and for many Reaſons, which might be alledged, I am induced to examine it impartially, and by way of Notes to preſent you with my Thoughts, in Manner following, *viz.*

1. *Having been treated in a very extraordinary Manner.*

The Truth of your Complaint is readily ſubſcribed to, and the Occaſion for it is as readily juſtified by reminding you, that extraordinary Caſes do always require extraordinary Treatment: Inſomuch that *Poſt Factum* Laws have been made to puniſh uncommon Offenders; tho' happy it is that Precedents of this Nature are but rare. Nevertheleſs, with regard to the preſent Caſe, it muſt be confeſſed that it was a diſagreeable Taſk to a good-natured Magiſtrate to be forced to be ſevere. And if to animadvert upon the Vice and Ill-conſequences which naturally flow from the Behaviour of one College, and could the Infection be ſuppoſed to ſpread, might endanger many,

58. be *a Proceeding for which the Vice-Chancellor had no Example amongſt his Predeceſſors in that venerable Office: for which he had no Example from any Perſon of Station in the*

Univerſity;

Univerſity; And I am perſuaded that it would have been an inexpreſſible Satisfaction to him, if no Occaſion had offered for it now: Yet the Want of Examples only proves that the paſt Ages were better than the preſent; that the Univerſity deſerves the higheſt Honours for maintaining its Innocence and Integrity ſo long; and that it is Matter for the moſt ſerious Lamentation when a College is eaſily prevailed with to overlook their higheſt Obligations in order to recede from their ancient Purity. But is it ſo certain that nothing like an Example ever happened? Tho' a ſenſible Man will not be ready to copy after every Example: And with regard to the Point in View a good Governor muſt rejoice that he ſtands ſingular: I put the preceding Queſtion, Sir, and methinks a conſcious Bluſh ſteals into the Cheeks of one of your Society, and in ſome Meaſure anticipates what will naturally fall under Conſideration in a more proper Place. However, before the Complaint of extraordinary Treatment be diſmiſſed, and we paſs on to other Particulars; I do aver, that had any other College in *Oxford* behaved in the very ſame Manner that *Exeter* College did (they at preſent being ſuppoſed innocent) and had the Vice-Chancellor neglected to take any Notice of their Miſconduct; from your well-known Diſpoſition,

ſition, I do aver, that *Exeter* College would have been the firſt to have conſtrued the Vice-Chancellor's Silence a Reproach to himſelf: And for the Truth of the Obſervation ſure I may appeal to your own Defence.

1. *The World may expect to hear ſome Particulars of this Matter, and whether any Thing can be ſaid in Defence of the College.*

The World, Sir, has ſeen and knows too much of your late Miſconduct to need farther Information, and have paſſed Judgment upon what they ſaw: And the Teſtimony of impartial credible Witneſſes muſt force Belief in Preference to what you can advance; becauſe you are Party-concerned, and cannot be ſuppoſed privy to every Tranſaction. Before you took up the Pen therefore you ſhould have well conſidered the Diſadvantage you lay under in caſe you was impoſed upon; and that if by Miſrepreſentation or Diſguiſe of the Matter, what you offered to the Publick, fell ſhort of the known Truth, you would make bad worſe and increaſe your Diſgrace. Drink deep of the Waters of *Helycon* without troubling them; for the more they are diſturbed, the more impure they will be rendered. I cannot therefore but be of Opinion, that it would have been far better, and more to the Credit of the College to have

have let the matter dye than revive it by a weak Defence, if upon Examination it amounts to any Defence at all: And that it would have been a greater Inſtance of Wiſdom to have acquieſced with the Rebuke, than to diſcover the Impetuoſity of a refractory Diſpoſition; leſt thereby the Scholars ſhould be encouraged to diſregard Admonitions, which will by no Means contribute to the good Government of your College. Here, Sir, the Aphoriſms of the Wiſeman occur to me in Abundance; but my great Reverence for the Holy Writings will not ſuffer me to mix the Sacred with the Profane: For ſurely it is very miſbecoming to interſperſe with Quotations from Scripture the moſt ordinary Altercations, which perhaps may be written with an improper Spirit, and with a bad Deſign. And it muſt be confeſſed, that I am at a Loſs to account for the Omiſſion of the little Word Wicked in the 48th Page, when it could not be owing either to a religious Qualm, or Cowardice, or an Apprehenſion of Danger, or that it was an improper and undeſerved Epithet for the Magiſtrate; ſince you frequently make uſe of Words of as bad Import and Signification: Let it then be imputed to a little ſudden paralytical Stroke, which deprived you of the Gift of Utterance, and all your Senſes for a Moment,

ment, and need not give you much Concern, as the Fit was but of ſhort Continuance; for it ſeems you almoſt inſtantly revived and came to yourſelf again.

The next Point urged is that the Vice-Chancellor, like the vulgar inſignificant Herd, has thrown out *Calumny* againſt the College — A Word, which implies ſomewhat maliciouſly Falſe — A Word, which would better have been left for the Recapitulation after the Fact was proved, than placed in the Introduction to your main Deſign; and which, I am perſuaded, would have been omitted, had you proceeded with more Caution and leſs Warmth. For ſince thereby you preſuppoſe what ſhould have been put hypothetically, it looks as if you induſtriouſly reſolved to riſe higher than barely to complain of Ill-treatment. You have taken the moſt effectual Way to prejudice the Mind of the Reader in your Favour: Since malicious Slander is naturally apt to move Compaſſion for the Perſons ſlandered, and to bring Contempt upon the Slanderer himſelf. But if you have not clearly proved this Charge; inſtead of making Repriſals at firſt ſetting out, and giving an Home-ſtroke, which is half the Battle; pray, who will prove to be the Slanderer in the End? So look you to it.

You go on, to make Profeſſion of the

greateſt

greateſt Reverence for the Univerſity, and I hope with Sincerity, becauſe you lie under great Obligations to it: Yet when your Defence proves that your preſent Behaviour is inconſiſtent with the true Character you ought to bear, let your Station in College be what it will, you muſt excuſe me for ſuſpending my Judgment in the Caſe till you give me better Proof of your Sincerity, than mere Words. And it might have been ſome Help and Satisfaction to me, had you taught me wherein you apprehend the *real Intereſt* of the Univerſity to conſiſt. It is plain you do not think that irreverent Uſage of the Head-Magiſtrate will any Ways impair *the real Intereſt* of the Place. For *the Vice-Chancellor muſt be diſtinguiſhed from the Body over which he preſides.* And, behold, what Marks of Diſtinction have you ſet upon him! "*He may miſtake the true Inte-*
"*reſts and Credit of the Place*; *he may act*
"*directly contrary to both. He may himſelf*
"*violate the very Statutes he ought to guard,*
"*and oppreſs the Perſons he is bound to pro-*
"*tect.*" Theſe ſentences at firſt View ſeem to convey no more than what may be ſaid of any fallible Man whatſoever; — even of your Rector himſelf, who undoubtedly is a Man of Abilities, and Learning: But here thoſe Sentences muſt be underſtood to excite a Suſpicion in the Reader that the Vice-

2.

2.

Chancellor is actually guilty of the Articles therein implied, of which the Poſſibility only is directly expreſſed. Such a Conſtruction you own to be your Meaning, and that you will make it good by adding — *How far*
3. *the Reflection may be applied to the preſent Vice-Chancellor, will appear in what is to follow.* So that this farther Accuſation artfully introduced repreſents the Vice-Chancellor to be a Man of bad Judgment, and of Ill-behaviour in Conſequence thereof; guilty of Oppreſſion — Guilty of Perjury. Whether you do not expect, that a Character quite the reverſe, which it is to be hoped you deſerve, ſhould from hence revert to yourſelf, I will not determine: nevertheleſs Charity obliges me to expreſs a proper Fear and Concern for one of You, conſidering your Stations, and therefore who can avoid being in Pain for the Event?

In the third Page the Vice-Chancellor is accuſed of a former Attack upon the College, ſpeciouſly drawn up to catch the unwary Reader; but upon Examination ſo ri-
3. diculous, that it ſcarce deſerves Notice. Yet in order to undeceive thoſe who poſſibly may be caught by you, as I am told you have Admirers; let us examine the Force of your reaſoning. The Vice-Chancellor appointed the Orator; The Orator reflected upon the College; Therefore the Vice-Chancellor reflected

flected upon the College. If I have not forgot the little Logick I once knew, the foregoing Syllogiſm is no proper one: And you might with equal Juſtneſs and Truth have gone one Remove higher, and ſaid, The Chancellor reflected upon the College. But, oh! the Vice-Chancellor declared the Orator *Laudatiſſimus*, therefore he approved of what the Orator ſaid. This is no juſt Conſequence: Therefore he ſaid it himſelf, and this is far worſe. So that would you have me believe that you have offered ſufficient Proof for the former Attack here complained of? Or that any circumſtantial Evidence in the Caſe can be derived from the Suggeſtion that *the two Orations were ſo ſimilar, that you was almoſt tempted to pronounce them the Productions of the ſame Pen?* I know you pleaſed yourſelf much, when you put this Paragraph together; but I don't envy your Happineſs. Neither will I amuſe the Reader with the Abſurdities, which naturally ariſe from the Suppoſition that one of the Parties made both the Speeches: But muſt plainly tell you, that I am perſuaded, you verily believe that the Vice-Chancellor knew no more of the Contents of the Orator's Speech, till he heard it publickly delivered, than you yourſelf did till you bluſhed at hearing it: That you know the Orator deſerves the Epithet *Laudatiſſimus*, let the Subjects of 3.

his Speeches be what they will: And that you know the Vice-Chancellor and the Orator are both well qualified to make their own Speeches. In Oppoſition therefore to the Conviction of your own Mind, what other Inducement could you have to publiſh the foregoing Aſperſions, but a furious Reſolution to blacken, as far as your Influence would reach, a fair Character? Have you no Credit to loſe? Or do you imagine you have ſaved it by concealing your Name? But above all, have you no Conſcience? And does not that reproach you for abuſing your Talents and for Inſolence to Magiſtracy?

4. Next follows a Detail of the Vice-Chancellor's Speech, which you call I think very improperly, nay, falſly, a Charge againſt *Exeter* College, and to which I have no farther Objection than to the explanatory Parentheſis therein contained; viz.

5. *The Body of the New Intereſt Freeholders.*

For by the Word Body you would repreſent the Vice-Chancellor to make no Diſtinction between Gentleman and Countryman. But I muſt let you know, Sir, that that Confuſion of Perſons is entirely of your own making, and could not poſſibly be the Vice-Chancellor's Meaning, who muſt be weak indeed, if he is not ſuppoſed to know better; tho' in ſome Meaſure it might be neceſſary for you to inſert it here, in order to prepare

the Way for your 25th Page. Yet now give me Leave to aſk you a Queſtion or two. Am I to look upon this as an Inſtance of Uprightneſs? Or of a Diſpoſition to miſlead the Reader? Or whether it is to indicate either a bad, or a good Deſign?

However, the College being not ſatisfied with what was recollected, the Rector, it ſeems, with ſome of the Fellows *waited on the Vice-Chancellor and requeſted a Copy of his Speech.* You have not vouchſafed to offer, Sir, a Precedent for this Conduct of the Gentlemen, tho' you do more than challenge the Vice-Chancellor to produce one for his own Juſtification. You abſolutely deny there ever was one, which it is impoſſible for you to prove, tho' we wiſh and believe it to be true. And it is to be hoped the Gentlemen will excuſe the Obſervation, that perhaps it might have been more decent for the Rector only to have waited upon the Vice-Chancellor in the Name of the College, than to have gone upon an unequal Footing in a Body. Numbers are apt to over-awe meek Diſpoſitions, tho' they had no improper Weight at that Interview. The Gentlemen did not ſucceed; and it cannot be imagined that they could poſſibly expect to ſucceed. What then could be the End of their going? The Anſwer is in a Manner obvious. Who can tell? But that they might go to bait 7.

bait the Vice-Chancellor ;— to enſnare him in his Diſcourſe ; and if Occaſion offered inadvertently to be Witneſſes for one another. Obſerve, Sir, that I don't ſay or inſinuate that this actually was the Caſe ; tho' ſome Men of high Spirits will be guilty of very mean and baſe Actions to ſerve their Turn. Whatever were their real Hopes, it only appears at preſent, that the Gentlemen would not loſe the Chance of trying for what they wanted. Had I been the Magiſtrate, my Suſpicions of Mankind would have moved me to retire into another Room upon knowing the Buſineſs of my Company, where I ſhould have diſcourſed them one by one, and took Leave of them ſeparately at my Door : Yet I won't ſay, but that it was beſt as it fell out.

I ſhall not paſs any Judgment upon the Vice-Chancellor's Speech, nor upon his Anſwers to the Gentlemen, as ſet forth in the Defence. They ſpeak for themſelves : and every one will claim a Right to judge for himſelf, and will make uſe of it ; tho' at the ſame Time he may be ſenſible, that there are Underſtandings far ſuperior to his own. My Buſineſs is only with the Author, and him let me attend.

Upon the paſt unſucceſsful Converſation, Sir, you give us two Remarks. Firſt you not only queſtion whether the Vice-Chancellor could

could be *ſerious in ſaying that he had reflected on no one of the College*; but by your ludicrous way of reaſoning, ſhew that you cannot conceive the Poſſibility of it: Whereas in my Opinion nothing well can be more eaſily conceived: Nay, if we wanted all Aſſurance of its Truth, that it was highly probable in itſelf. To come to the Point: As you deal much in the interrogatory way of writing, let me in my Turn put a Queſtion or two to you. Did you never, Sir, ſet your Pupils this common Theſis? *Parcite Perſonis, dicite de Vitiis.* And did you not ſeriouſly preach laſt Sunday againſt ſome heinous Crime without ſpecifying the Perſon guilty of it; and without having him ſo much as even in your Eye, tho' poſſibly the Culprit might make Part of your Audience? Why then might not the Vice-Chancellor be ſerious in his Declaration? And is it not ſomewhat more than rude to call his Anſwer an *evaſive and unmeaning Reply?* Since he could not prevail with you, as far as lay in his Power by diſagreeable Repetitions to believe him to be ſincere: Doth it not look as if you reſolved to diſbelieve? either in order to traduce him, or that the World ſhould not loſe this Remark, which in your ſecond Edition deſerves to be diſtinguiſhed, like the *Alcoran* 8.

* *Alcoran* divided into Chapters, by the emphatical Title

ΨΕΤΑΔΟΘΥΡΟΝ·

OR,

The curious Chapter of Gates and Walls.

The ſecond Remark is upon the Refuſal of the Speech, and you tell us, Sir, *is of a more ſerious Kind, being founded upon the Principles of common Juſtice.* Be it ſo. And what will that avail? unleſs it be to the Point. No Man in Truth ought to be impriſoned, or put upon his Trial without knowing why or wherefore. Nay, according to our Conſtitution, it is almoſt impoſſible he ſhould: But I never heard, that you, or your Friends, were in the leaſt Danger of ſuffering in thoſe Reſpects; neither ſhall it be determined that you deſerve to be in ſuch a diſagreeable Situation, nor even wiſh for it, that by the Plea of Perſecution you may haſten the Reward of your Labours. Whenever you are, I may venture to promiſe you a Copy of what is laid

9.

* Note upon Notes.

The *Alcoran* is the *Turks* Bible: And it is to be hoped that the Defence is not the Author's Bible, if it be Part of his Creed.

to

to your Charge. Nay, your Crime muſt be ſpecified in the *Mittimus*, and therefore you muſt know it: Unleſs, *as there are Ways of taking Affidavits that do not always bring Truth to Light*, the *Mittimus* be drawn up in ſo puzzling a Manner, that it is impoſſible to find the Crime out. In the mean Time you are here called upon to prove your Right to *demand*, or your Right to *requeſt*, though in the Nature of a Requeſt I think it is implied, that one Party has as much Right to refuſe, as the other to aſk: And till that be done, you muſt be told, that you have remarked upon a Caſe of your own making, which has not yet happened, nor is likely to happen; That you have perverted the Intention of the Speaker, and know it, becauſe it beſt ſerved your preſent Purpoſe; and then have endeavoured to move the Compaſſion of the Reader by your pretended Out-cry of Injuſtice. However, the *Demand* is ſuch a favourite Topic, that it is here urged, had a Proctor ſaid the ſame, they ſhould have applied to the Vice-Chancellor to *demand* a Copy of his Speech. *To which it was coolly anſwered.* I am entirely ready to impute the preceding Declaration to Want of Recollection, and not to an unmerciful Diſpoſition, which is juſt poſſible, but not eaſily credible: For otherwiſe, 33. 10.

it would be ſtrange that a * Gentleman ſhould be ſo importunate for an Examination, when he had happily eſcaped one himſelf; and when the two Caſes were widely different. But what can be ſaid to you, Sir, who juſt now judged the Speech to be too rough for your Digeſtion, and in the ſame Breath almoſt ſeem diſſatisfied with *a cool* and calm Temper? Why, for the ſake of ſparing ſome deſerved Reflections at preſent we will follow you on.

It ſcarce deſerves farther Notice, that you
10. harp again upon the String of *Injuſtice*, which you do no leſs than ſeven Times more in the Proceſs of your elaborate Diſcourſe; did it not appear neceſſary for you in order to tell us that you could think of but one Inducement for the Refuſal? But be pleaſed to excuſe the Interruption, and we will furniſh you with half a dozen in an Inſtant. To have complied with the *Requeſt*, would have been too great a Diminution of the Dignity of the Office; it would have ſubverted all Order; it might have ſubjected the Officer to perpetual Trouble and Inſults; it might have anſwered no one

* The R— of *E*—, in his Speech at the Expiration of his procuratorial Office, d—d the late Preſident of St. *John*'s College in *Oxford*, who being acquainted therewith, and aſked whether he would call the Gentleman to an Account, replied, *No, no, his Paſſion is a ſufficient Puniſhment.*

good

good End or Purpoſe; and it would have been doing more than the Gentlemen, if in Power, would have condeſcended to have done themſelves. Oh! there are but five, let the ſixth then be — It might have furniſhed Materials to exerciſe the Spirit of Cavilling.

Your one Inducement it ſeems upon the beſt Recollection is grounded upon a falſe Fact; viz. *He trembling ſaid*, which other 18.
Parts of the Audience did not obſerve. And therefore what is to be expected from this early Specimen of your Diſpoſition to miſrepreſent? Yet to do you Juſtice, when the Vice-Chancellor was pleaſed to explain his own Expreſſion, you do not find Fault with his obliging Behaviour; nevertheleſs you prove yourſelf not ſatisfied with the Explanation by this Remark, *Why ſhould he be* 11.
afraid of giving Offence to any Perſon? Becauſe, as long as there will be unreaſonable Men in the World, and how long that will be, you, Sir, ſhall determine; many will be offended without a juſt Cauſe; many without the leaſt Provocation at all; and many with the neceſſary Steadineſs of the Magiſtrate in proſecuting his Duty. No Doubt the World will judge of the Candor and Equity of Mr. Vice-Chancellor's Proceeding; 11.
and likewiſe, of what you might little think of — your own Performance. And if you

can imagine that you are properly ſupplied with what you earneſtly want, I ſhall by no Means envy you the Uſe of the Acquiſition. But I will have nothing to do with Evening-Poſts, nor Poſts in the Evening, if I can help it, for Fear of my Head; and therefore, Sir, I ſhall turn over to your next Page.

12. *I make no Apology for ſuppoſing &c.*

In Truth, Sir, you are very free with your Suppoſitions without favouring the World with one Authority, why you make them; and therefore it may be concluded, that you have none to offer. And ſince you are ſo very particular in laying your Accuſation, that we cannot poſſibly miſtake your Meaning; methinks you ſhould have been equally explicit in what Senſe we are to underſtand the Imputation itſelf; whether as an Inſtance of Civility, of good Manners, of decent Behaviour towards your Governor, or of a fixed Purpoſe to affront and traduce him. It is my Opinion, and that is grounded upon your ſeeming Diffidence and Wavering, that you even diſbelieve what you have aſſerted. And why may it not be more probable, that you yourſelf was the Author of inſerting the Article in the News-Paper, than the Vice-Chancellor? You heard the Speech, and was chagreen'd.—— You pretended to want Matter for your Diſculpation

and was diſappointed.— And as you reſolved to lay an heavy Load upon the Vice-Chancellor, it might turn to your Account to repreſent the Caſe in too ſtrong Colours, as thereby you might better clear yourſelf and effect your Deſign, when you came to anſwer your own Chimeras. Beſides, there might be preceding Times wherein you were concerned with common News-writers; and therefore why not again for your Benefit? For theſe Reaſons, which muſt outweigh an empty Scale, the Probability runs on your Side: Nevertheleſs don't ſay, that I lay it to your Charge.

At leaſt he ſtands accountable &c. It is a Pleaſure to find you not quite inſenſible of the Ill-effects of bad Examples, tho' here derived from a very improper Source, or that you do not always overlook them: Nevertheleſs it is apprehended, that did they fall more frequently under your Conſideration, you might poſſibly have been leſs ſanguine in your Deciſions. But by the ſame ridiculous Way of arguing, you may make the Vice-Chancellor accountable for your unaccountable Defence, which no Man of common Senſe will ever charge him with. 12.

Neither to me *is it evident, he was underſtood by his Hearers as ſaying ſo much.* Which odd Notion of mine is confirmed by two Proverbs; viz. Some there are, who will make 12.

Moun-

Mountains of Mole-hills. And another Proverb ſays, A Story never loſes by being told *. — Remember the three Crows. (It is not thought the † Split-Crow is one of them.) Which is full as good a Parentheſis, as when ſpeaking of the Chapel for the Freeholders Horſes, tho' many of your Company were forced to ride on Foot, you wantonly write *(I think this is no Part of the*
30. *Vice-Chancellor's Charge.)* But above all, Sir, I am confirmed in my Opinion, becauſe
12. *it was not evident* to a Man of your Sagacity and Penetration, otherwiſe you would not have well failed through pure Good-Will to have inſerted ſo material a Point in what you call a Detail of the Charge. Before this Paragraph be left, it muſt be farther obſerved, that when a Magiſtrate has the Paſſions of Numbers to combat with at Home, he can have but little Leiſure and leſs Inclination to bring upon himſelf unneceſſary Buſineſs from Abroad: So that I can by no Means think you in Earneſt when you aſſign the Vice-Chancellor the low and mean Office to contradict Evening-Poſts, and encounter Journaliſts, (that is, according to your judicious Account, himſelf) un-

* Alluding to a Story one of the Wags of *Exeter* College tells in a very droll Manner, but too long to be inſerted.

† A famous Alehouſe, where a certain Gentleman uſed to rendezvous with Tag, Rag, and Bob-tail.

leſs

leſs you imagine there is great Pleaſure in Acts of Imprudence. For don't you know, that to remonſtrate with an uncommon Writer in the moſt cool and calm Manner, is but the ſureſt Way to inflame the little Mind of a large Man to multiply Inſults? According to the Example before me, I have here but one more Remark to make, which is implied in a Queſtion: The Author has wrote no leſs than twelve Pages before he has brought me to the Merits of the Caſe; and what do they all amount to with reſpect to a Defence?

We are now preſented with the Programma, and with an Hint of the Inaccuracy of the Compoſition, which I am not Critick enough to diſcern, unleſs it be with regard to the Poſition of a Sentence or two: And ſhall paſs over your Remarks, Sir, till I come to your 16th Page.

The College-Gates were kept ſhut ſo far as to anſwer the full Intention of the Programma. 16.
It is apprehended, that the full Intention of the Programma was to confine the Scholars, in order to prevent their intermixing with the Freeholders. And it is but little Odds, whether one Party be let out, or another Party be let in to intermix; ſo that but one Half of the Intention could be fulfilled. Yet as you are pleaſed to overlook the Inaccuracy of the Compoſition; we will after your

your Manner overlook the Non-compliance with this one Half of the Intention. And ſhall only give you to underſtand from *the*
15. *Inconveniences the young Gentlemen were ſubjected to*, that as Hardſhips are apt to whet Wits, the World is in Expectation of ſome Anecdotes of the exact Proceedings of your College for the four firſt Days of the Poll. That is to ſay, how well you all behaved in your reſpective Stations, as Maſter of the Ceremonies, Carvers, Cup-bearers, Waiters, Orators, Treaſurer, and Chaplain. And whether this be done in Verſe or Proſe, it will be equally well accepted: Tho' it is to
49. be hoped *that the Muſes will by no Means be too coy* upon the Occaſion. Indeed I don't at all deſpair of ſeeing your ingenious Defence verſified: For why ſhould not Jacob Gingle, who wants Money, exerciſe his Talent now, as well as formerly upon a Sermon compoſed within your Walls. And ſurely the preſent Subject is much better adapted for poetical Flights. For what a glorious Epiſode will it make, when the Poet lanches out upon your lucrative Employment; — commends the Gratitude of your noble Heroes, who wiſely provided for your immediate Emolument; and then riſes to a Deſcription of your reverſionary Expectations?

A Canon,

A Canon, that's a Place too mean,
No, Maſter, you ſhall be a Dean:

Crowning the whole with an Aſſurance that this Utopian Deanery may undoubtedly be depended upon from the hearty Promiſes of the moſt honourable Perſons, confirmed by very ſignificant Squeezes by the Hand. But here let him be cautioned not to throw the leaſt Damp upon the Spirits by injudiciouſly adding, that after the Parties had moſt humbly took Leave and walk'd off, many low reciprocal Bows having paſſed between you, they winked at each other, and privately whiſpered, ſee how eaſily the Wiſeaker is gulled.

Hinc illæ Lacrymæ. 16.

You never was more miſtaken, Sir, in any one Point in your whole Life, than in what you would have underſtood by the preſent Suggeſtion. For had you headed the honeſt Freeholders yourſelf, conducted them through the College, and took leave of them with all the unmeaning Complaiſance which a polite fine Gentleman may be maſter of, however exceptionable your Conduct; perhaps no Notice might have been taken of it. But, pray remember, that there was no abſolute Neceſſity for the honeſt Men to return back the ſame Way; neither was there any abſolute Ne-

ceſſity for their being detained in College; and therefore you may ſoon ſee better Reaſons for being offended, if you do not chooſe to remain wilfully blind.

16. As the Truth needs no *Diſguiſe*, the World ſhould have been ſatisfied, what Member of the College inſinuated to the Gentlemen how convenient its Situation was for ſome certain Purpoſes: And that in Conſequence of ſuch Inſinuations their Requeſt was made to the Rector. The Diſcovery indeed would make but little Difference: Nevertheleſs at the ſame Time it leſſened the Impropriety of the Requeſt, it would ſhew how very deſerving their Friend was for his Work of Supererogation. As

17. to the Plea for Admiſſion that *their Voters might be protected*, &c. that is highly abſurd and ridiculous: Unleſs the New-Intereſt-Party knew that they had carried on their Oppoſition by unjuſtifiable Means. The civil Powers were entirely on their Side; tho' ſure it would have been more commendable in them to have put on the Appearance at leaſt of being Neuter. Neither would it have anſwered one good Purpoſe for the Old-Intereſt Freeholders to offer Inſults. It would have endangered their whole Election, which they were well aware of, and therefore entirely refrained from all

violent

violent Meaſures. However, *The Requeſt was complied with out of a Principle of Humanity and Juſtice.* Expreſſions, which are naturally apt to raiſe moving Ideas, but upon Examination are only ſpecious: For allowing them their due Force, the Rector would be equally obliged to interpoſe in every Conteſt that occurred, and render his College an Aſylum for one Party or the other: Unleſs there be ſuppoſed wanting the *ſame hearty Good-will for the Cauſe itſelf.* Let it then be enquired what the Cauſe was. Why, a certain Gentleman who has faithfully ſerved his Country above two Seſſions of Parliament, and his Friend, muſt be turned out, if poſſible: And two other Gentlemen muſt be ſet up to oppoſe them in order to aggrandize one Man, who perhaps may be too much aggrandized already for the Good of the whole County: And this is all the real Cauſe that I know of. They who have made other Cauſes, and ſcandalized the very beſt Subjects, Subjects out of Principle, who live as if they feared God and Man and don't make their own Self-Wills the ſole Rule of their Actions; whoever has ſcandalized ſuch Subjects, let them anſwer for their Wickedneſs, I will have nothing to do with them. 17.

And afterwards, &c. Upon reading this Sentence, would not one imagine that the 17.

Back-gate was ſhut and the Freeholders not admitted, till the Poll was begun. Whereas the Freeholders were admitted into College early in the Morning, and the Back-gate was opened ſeveral Hours before the Poll begun, which was not till near two o'Clock in the Afternoon. Whether then, Sir, you have repreſented the Caſe without the leaſt Diſguiſe, the World will judge: And will farther judge, whether that Way
17. could poſſibly be wanted to *maintain their Ground.* The New-Intereſt Freeholders were ſure that the Sheriff would not cloſe the Poll, till all their Voters were polled to a Man: But you wont ſay, that the other Party had the ſame Security. The ſole Occaſion therefore, why many are diſpleaſed with the College, cannot be becauſe you enabled them to have Acceſs to the Booths, which they muſt have had without your Aſſiſtance; but on ſome other Accounts, which you have ſmoothly related hereafter. The Words *Violence and Rage—Scandalous Part—his News-paper*, tho' they be never ſo provoking, and you well know they be quite undeſerved, ſhall be paſſed over without farther Notice: For undoubtedly, like a true Engliſhman who does not well reliſh the leaſt Violation of his Liberty, you claim the Privilege to uſe what Language you pleaſe.

Before

Before I examine, Sir, how you prove any part of the Vice-Chancellor's Speech to be *abſolutely groundleſs*; I ſhall preſent you with a Table of Facts, which can be aſcertained by unqueſtionable Witneſſes. 17.

The Table of Facts.

It is a Fact, that an Agent for the New-Intereſt publickly declared, that if he could carry the Election by lying, he would not be deficient in that Point.

It is Fact, that one Candidate himſelf taught the common People the new Doctrine of Promiſe-Breaking.

It is Fact, that the Sheriff before the Poll was opened went to every Booth, and required all Perſons to be polled at the Front on the Outſide; except the Gentlemen then preſent in the Booths.

It is Fact, that the Sheriff ſaid he muſt ſend to the Rector of *Exeter* to ſhut up his Back-gate very ſoon after the Poll was begun.

It is Fact, that all the Candidates agreed to join in the ſame Requeſt to the Rector.

It is Fact, that one, two, and three Guineas,—And to ſome more, to ſome leſs, were given to the N— I—ſt Freeholders after they had polled, tho' they lived at Free-

Free-coſt, under Pretence of bearing their Charges.

We are now come, Sir, to your diminu-
18. tive Hydra of but five Heads, when one might have expected as many as the Date of the Year 1755, to have ſwallowed up the whole Univerſity, tho' perhaps one good one would have been worth them All. And as an Anſwer in general, you obſerve, Firſt, that the College is not charged with the Violation of any one of the Univerſity Statutes. Be it ſo. And yet that will but little avail: Becauſe in many Caſes Perſons may be blameable, where the Law will not actually reach them. Neither would a prudent Man run all Lengths, becauſe he may be wiſe enough to know, that in the End, probably he ſhall eſcape with Impunity.

19. Your ſecond Obſervation, as far as it relates to the Point, if I underſtand you, is a peremptory Aſſertion that the Vice-Chancellor has no Right at all, either to praiſe or diſpraiſe any College, for Affairs which happen within their private Walls. And to this there is annexed a Reflection very extravagant, but expreſſed with your uſual Civi-
19. lity. Afterwards you ſubjoin, *The Vice-Chancellor told the Rector, it fell properly within his Province to animadvert upon the College.* So that here is only Opinion againſt Opini-

on, which advances nothing; neither proves, nor diſproves the leaſt on either Side; tho' ſure it was your Buſineſs, Sir, to refute the Vice-Chancellor in a different and better Manner than juſt by giving him your own Opinion to the contrary. I am not ſufficiently acquainted with the Statutes of the Univerſity, much leſs with the Charters, to ſay preciſely how far the Juriſdiction of the Vice-Chancellor extends: But I always apprehended that it was much more conſiderable than you are pleaſed to aſſert: Tho' when it makes for you, you allow *that the Vice-Chancellor has more Authority than over his own Domeſticks.* Colleges I look'd upon in a double Capacity, as under private and publick Government. With regard to private Diſcipline, their local Statutes are their Rule: And with regard to Offences *contra bonos Mores*, which neceſſarily affect the Publick, tho' committed within private Walls; for ſuch Offences I always look'd upon Colleges as reſponſible likewiſe to their publick Governor. His Protection they demand, and to his Puniſhment they muſt be ſubject. But this is carrying the Matter farther than the preſent Caſe requires: Let it then from hence be only argued, that if the foregoing Method of Reaſoning be juſtifiable and valid; one may very ſtrongly conclude for what actually did happen. 47.

happen. And I muſt give you to underſtand, Sir, without ſeeming to caſt a baſe Reflection either upon yourſelf, or your Society, which one would guard againſt as much as one abhors, that none but the Profligate and Wicked will thank you for your Diſcovery.

19. *It gave general Offence.*— *Offence to whom, Mr. Vice-Chancellor?* The indecent Pertneſs, with which the Queſtion is put, eaſily induces one to ſuſpect what is to follow. But you are greatly miſtaken, Sir, in your Aſ-
20. ſertion, *that it could give Offence but to the Wellwiſhers of one Side at moſt.* Some there are, who will hate the Traitor, tho' they love the Treaſon. Don't be ſo mean now as to call me, or any Body elſe, Jacobite, becauſe I give you an Opportunity to play upon thoſe Words. For with all Sincerity I aſſure you, that nothing more is meant by the Quotation of the common Saying, than that ſome upright Men will not approve of every Meaſure their Friends take, tho' they are benefited by their Services. It is believed you apprehend *Exeter* Col-
20. lege to have been commended by *Perſons of the firſt Diſtinction, and of unblemiſhed Honour and Integrity.* And thereby make us wiſh that you had particularly ſpecified who they are, that one might applaud your Judgment as far as the Caſe would bear; yet as

I have

I have heard it remark'd that there is but little Difference between a wiſe Man and a Fool, that is, between the wiſeſt Actions of a Fool and the moſt fooliſh Actions of a wiſe Man; for once take a Fool's Advice, and reſolve never more to brag of Diſtinctions and Honour: But I will give you my Word, that you are not univerſally commended by your whole Party. However, the Commendations of a few have furniſhed you with an Argument to cut down the Vice-Chancellor. And did not you chuckle ſo exceſſively at the imagined great Feat that you was forced to lay by your Pipe for a Time? But really I am aſhamed that a Man of your Senſe could deſcend ſo low as to play the Sophiſter in ſuch a mean Manner, when you could not poſſibly underſtand the Word to imply more, than comparatively ſpeaking *general*. For there is no Truth, not even Two and Two make Four, and ſure a plainer to us cannot well be brought, which the whole World to a Man will ſubſcribe to. So well grounded is my former Obſervation, that you wanted to criticiſe and cavil from your earneſt Importunity for the Speech.— And I moſt heartily rejoice that your Diſguiſe was ſeen through and you diſappointed.

The next Paragraph in the 20th Page, as 20.
it contributes no more to the *Defence* than

 what

what you have already advanced may admit of the following Paraphraſe.

Mr. Vice-Chancellor, as a Magiſtrate in the City, had you taken Notice in your anniverſary Oration of the Drunkenneſs the Freeholders in the Town were guilty of; for upon them only had you a Right to animadvert: I could not but have applauded your Judgment and your Spirit: — Your ſurprizing Spirit, for ineffectually exclaiming againſt what the united Force of all the Juſtices in the County could not have prevented; and your extraordinary Judgment, becauſe thoſe Freeholders made no neceſſary Part of your Audience. And had they accidentally heard you, they would neither have been the better nor the worſe for your Oration. They might indeed have walked off, ſuppoſed, and ſaid, the Vice-Chancellor has made a fine Speech, but we did not underſtand him: Yet on their own accord they could not have been diſpleaſed with the leaſt Reflection upon their Intemperance. Whereas the Part you took, Sir, as a matriculated Magiſtrate, whoſe Power chiefly is over all matriculated Perſons, is an Inſtance of uſurp'd Authority. The *honeſt* drunken Freeholders within a College are under the Protection of the College; and you have made an Infringement upon the private Privilege of the College by paſſing

ſing a general Cenſure upon their Drunkenneſs, and by lamenting the unhappy Conſequences of it. Thus the Caſe ſtands; which if you had but thoroughly examined, Sir, it is believed that you would not have been ſatisfied with it yourſelf. For had the Vice-Chancellor purſued your Method, could you have ſet unconcerned without thinking, poſſibly this may be obliquely levelled at Somebody? At leaſt you might have informed the Townſmen, who could very juſtly have replied—Fine Partiality in Truth to blame us and overlook the good People at *Exeter!*—Unleſs the whole be reſolved to this Principle, Somebody would willingly bear to be ſcratch'd a little, provided the Vice-Chancellor was well claw'd off. It muſt be farther noted, that you ſtand ſelf-condemned by accuſing the Vice-Chancellor of Repetitions, as you are frequently guilty of the ſame Inaccuracy yourſelf, and not equally with the ſame good Deſign: And that you lay a mighty improper Streſs upon the Conceſſion, which, I think, there was no Occaſion to make, and you would do well to conſider, whether it did not intimate a Deſire rather to leſſen, than to aggravate Matters, with the Hopes that the College would ſoon be ſatisfied and eaſy. 21.

After this long Preamble, which might be imagined to be neceſſarily previous to the

main Deſign, you proceed to conſider the Articles diſtinctly.

22. Firſt, You own the Admiſſion of the Freeholders, but pronounce it laudable. Here ſomewhat more is expected than dogmatical Aſſertions; let it then be examined how you have proved the Admiſſion to be

22. laudable. *I take the Liberty, ſay you,* &c.

You have taken, Sir, many Liberties already, and for your Sake we wiſh that you had taken fewer; but ſhall make no other Objection to the preſent, than that you have advanced a Poſition, which is eaſily diſproved. For the whole Audience can atteſt upon being appealed to, that the Vice-Chancellor offered no Preſcription, and aſſumed no Prerogative, if that would ſatisfy you. And therefore this Fact, which is entirely of your own making, and even foreign to the Purpoſe, needs no farther Notice. Let us then come to your Proof: The Admiſſion was laudable, becauſe in Compliance with the Requeſt of Perſons of Diſtinction and on account of the End for doing it. And ſince to each of theſe Particulars you now urge no more, than what you have already offered; I might refer you to my former Anſwers with commending your Perſeverance and Steadineſs in the very ſame Opinion and in the ſame Elegancy of Expreſſion, which Self-Partiality allows. But

I am

I am not entirely contented with my own Obſervations, and therefore ſhall add, I think there was ſufficient Reaſon to deſire to be excuſed, when a Man could not well comply without cancelling higher Obligations: But under great and powerful Temptations who can well anſwer for himſelf? Yet at beſt as this can be but Matter of Opinion, it by no Means proves the Admiſſion laudable. Let us now conſider the End of doing it, which was for the Sake of Protection. And could this be apprehended to be the real Caſe, and not irreconcileable with antecedent Duties, poſſibly it might be entitled to ſome Degree of Praiſe. But we never knew of the leaſt Neceſſity for ſuch a Proviſion, nor ever heard of any, till you wrote, Sir, *from Inſults even from the Scholars; ſeveral of this Kind having been already born with Patience.* What? Were not the Scholars cloſely confined for the three firſt Days of the Poll? And were not your honeſt Fellows revelling in the College all thoſe Days? Yet in much leſs Time the Poll ought to have been forwarded and cloſed. So that you muſt write to juſtify the College by any Means, and not for the Sake of Truth; for the Circumſtances you have placed your Freeholders in are of your own Invention entirely, and never happened, and conſequently there was no Opportunity

22.

tunity to exerciſe your Juſtice and ſhew your Humanity; on which Account it muſt be concluded that you have not proved your Point, and that the Admiſſion ought not to be pronounced laudable. However, if from Inſults that happened half a Year before, ſay only a Month, but unknown to me, it was an Inſtance of Prudence to provide againſt future ones; yet as on the *Monday* preceding the Poll, you knew the Scholars were to be confined, no Danger was to be apprehended from them; neither were there any reaſonable Apprehenſions of Danger from your Opponents, as it was contrary to their Intereſt to make Diſturbances; ſo that you had not the real Temptation you pretend, tho' very likely ſome other, to make uſe of the Means you had provided. But when you wrote half a Year after the Poll was ended, was it not a Matter of Juſtice to tell the World the Scholars were confined a reaſonable Time; that no Riot happened; and that you were happily miſtaken in your Judgment? Pardon me, Sir, for applying to you more perſonally; for I ſhould be inexcuſable if I did not: Pray,
2. am I to look upon it as *an affectionate Attachment to the real Intereſt* of the Place to omit wilfully ſeveral Circumſtances which it was for the great Credit of the Place to reveal?—In truth it is far more noble to be

an

an open Enemy, than an Enemy under the Appearances of Friendſhip.——And laſtly, it is an Inſtance of an affectionate Attachment to the preſent Eſtabliſhment in Church and State, and to the real Intereſt of the Univerſity, which always was, and I truſt, ever will be moſt heartily zealous for this Eſtabliſhment, to intermeddle over-officiouſly in a Cauſe ſupported by Perſons of every Denomination; ſome of whom, however odious to each other, have always united to ſubvert both, and would unite with Infidels to carry their Point? If ſuch a Conduct, Sir, be expreſſive of a Love for *Oxford*, to me it is a very ſtrange Way of ſhewing it. The Truth of the laſt Sentence in this Paragraph without any Reſpect to what preceded it, we moſt readily allow: But pray, Sir, who were the Perſons *diſtreſſed?* It is thought they may be denominated the Diſtreſſors, (allow me the Word) who made uſe of the moſt violent Meaſures to gain Proſelytes; who ranſack'd every publick Office to force Men into their Service, and thereby did as much as lay in their Power to deprive them of that, which you have the greateſt value for, their *Engliſh* Liberty. And pray, Sir, who were the Perſons purſued? In the common Acceptation of Words they are generally denominated the *Purſuers*, who ſet out laſt. And 23.

pray,

pray, Sir, who were the *enraged Adverſaries?* Were they not thoſe who were angry with the common Freeholders, becauſe they would not break their Promiſes at their Requeſt, and who were incens'd that they refuſed to be all Obedience to their HONOURS. Wherefore it is moſt humbly apprehended, that as ſometimes you fight in the dark, you have unluckily miſtook your proper Side: And if it was allowable at all, or could have been deſired by us, that you ought to have made your College an Aſylum for my Friends, and by no means have acted in Contradiction to your own proper and juſt Sentiments.

23. *But the Vice-Chancellor affects*, &c.

Happy, Sir, without doubt inexpreſſibly happy, you eſteem yourſelf that no one can judge you guilty of the ſuppoſed Affectation you here condemn: But had you perſonated a falſe Character and aſſumed an Air of ſome little Hypocriſy (don't miſtake me I am no Advocate for Hypocriſy in general) might it not have contributed to ſome ſmall Indication of Decency, and prevented the Queſtion and Anſwer which follow? Nay! Might it not have prevented the Inſertion of the whole Paragraph, which without much Loſs of Credit, and without much Impropriety might have been omitted. *What*

23. *bad Conſequences Mr. Vice-Chancellor?* The naſty

naſty Conſequences, Sir, of Drunkenneſs very viſible in your Hall, very viſible in many Parts of your C——. And therefore who can think? that you are properly authorized to ſay *the College knows of none; except this only, that they have been publickly ſtigmatized by you, Sir, in your Speech:* which can never affect them, but entitle them to Pity, if the World can believe, that the Vice-Chancellor's Remarks were undeſerved. But upon Suppoſition that the World looks upon you, Sir, in a different Light than you deſire; and conceives that you are not impowered to write in this Manner, and therefore muſt be an Author of a very uncommon Aſſurance; may it not be thought that you deſerve an indelible Brand? On which Account it is to be hoped that you will ever have the Precaution to conceal your Name, leſt a Mark of Diſtinction be ſet upon you, and you be publickly called 23.

ΨΕΥΔΟΘΥΡΥΠΡΟΣΤΑΤΗΣ·

OR,

The Advocate-general for the Back-gate.

After all, if your Society can remain inſenſible that they have done Wrong in proſtituting the C—— to make an occaſional Mug-

houſe of it, I can have no Hopes of convincing them of their Error. And in the
23. laſt Clauſe, viz. *you perhaps may reckon &c.* there is ſuch an evil Inſinuation, and withal ſo weak a one, that it is wonderful how any conſiderate Man could utter it,—could thus deceive himſelf,— and thereby hope to impoſe upon others. For it was abſolutely impoſſible to keep the New-intereſt Freeholders from being polled, and therefore it was never attempted, never hoped for, and never thought of. But as the righteous Magiſtrate was on your Side, and the Numbers on the other, there ſeemed an Expediency for your Freeholders to wait with Patience.

Let it now be ſeen how you prove *it*
22. *falſe*, that the Freeholders taken into College were the Refuſe and Scandal of Mankind. Why, you roundly aſſert it: and then becauſe the Vice-Chancellor declared his Animadverſions were *general*, that is, *not perſonal*, you will have it as it made for your Purpoſe, that the whole Party incluſively, were pointed out by the Set of Epithets quoted in your 25th Page, which could only be meant to deſcribe the loweſt and meaneſt Half of them at moſt: And therefore you conclude it falſe, becauſe *All* did not deſerve the Character, which in Truth was only given of *Some*. Is this an Inſtance of an ingenuous Diſpoſition? Or is it not a Re-

preſentation too ridiculous to be credited? However, it was previouſly neceſſary for you to aſſume the Office of a Dictator, and teach the Vice-Chancellor what Exceptions 25.
he ought to have made. Perhaps an over-cautious Man without Offence may decline to give his Opinion in the Caſe, which is beſt ſubmitted to the Judgment of the Publick. Nay, it may be left to yourſelf, Sir, as you deal much in rough Epithets when you ſpeak of your Governor, to determine with what elegant Characteriſticks. This your Sort of Behaviour ought to be diſtinguiſhed. During the Time of the Poll I was within the College myſelf, and ſaw ſuch a Set of Men, which I ſhould be aſhamed to be concerned with, and verily believe them to be the Dregs of the whole Poll. If you, Sir, be of a different Opinion, be pleaſed to take Care how you divulge it, till you have well conſidered, whether it be conſiſtent with what you have afterwards given us to underſtand; viz. that your honeſt Freeholders were not worth Six-pence each when they were taken into College for fear of being *ſtarved*; tho' you 29.
have avoided to tell the World, how well-rewarded they walked off.

The ſecond Article ſets forth that the *College permitted the Freeholders to paſs through* 26.
their Back-gate to poll, which likewiſe is aſ-

ſerted to be *not only defenſible but commendable.* Might it not be expected, that you would ingeniouſly produce ſome new Argument to ſupport this Aſſertion? But, lo! you are ſo fond of your own Conceits, that even your fruitful Invention will not ſuffer you to offer more than the old Story again with a little Variation of Expreſſion. *It preſerved, ſay*
26. *you, that Liberty of voting which is the Right of every Freeholder.* And this is your whole Proof of the ſecond Article: To which let it be added, And may that Right be ever preſerved! And may thoſe who dare to deprive them of it by an exorbitant Stretch of Power, ever meet with exemplary Puniſhment! But with what Propriety can it be ſaid, that your Favour preſerved that which was never in Danger of being loſt? In Truth it only ſerved to forward your Candidates too faſt upon the Poll in a very clandeſtine and very exceptionable Manner. *All*
26. *other Paſſages &c.* It is the groſſeſt Falſhood, and the groſſeſt Impoſition that ever was put upon Mankind to utter this Sentence. To my Knowledge there was an Intermixture of Parties from the firſt Beginning of the Poll. And a Man of Veracity will atteſt one Inſtance of a very early Partiality in polling your Friends even in the Front of the Booths, tho' I never heard of more.

But when this Scheme was fruſtrated by the Society of Exeter. I am willing to allow *Exeter* College as much Merit as they deſerve, but not more. It is true the College-Gates were opened to let in, and to let out, but that is the whole of their boaſted Service relating to the preſent Point in View. Upon Suppoſition of the Truth, that all other Ways were rendered inacceſſible by the Old-intereſt Men, you ſhould have told the World how long they perſiſted in their egregious Folly after their Diſappointment; and whether it is not incredible that a provoked People would acquieſce with Shifts and Tricks; when a Detachment of but fifty brave Fellows exaſperated by Knavery and Cunning, would have ſecured your narrow Paſs againſt the united Force of your whole pent-up Party with much greater Eaſe, than *five hundred* could have blockaded either of the Ways in the wide open Streets, eſpecially as the civil Power had wiſely declared for your Side. So that in Fact the good Uſe your Party made of the College-Favour muſt be imputed to the peaceable Diſpoſition of your Opponents, who declined all Diſturbances, let what would happen. And as you was not prevented at the dearly beloved Ψευδόθυρον, does it not more ſtrongly conclude, that you was not prevented elſewhere? and conſequently that there was 26.

no

no Neceſſity for your pretended Neceſſity; and that no Scheme was fruſtrated, becauſe there was no Scheme at all. And withal I do aver that this Story is much more probable than your Fable entitled,

The Vice-Chancellor and The Orator. If you are not yet convinced from the Table of Facts of the ill-judged Interpretation of the Viſit paid your Rector; I muſt plainly tell you, that Sir *J. Daſhwood* might take upon himſelf the Trouble of going in the Name of all the Parties: As ſomewhat like it I think is implied in your Account of the Converſation at that Interview. But what occaſioned the Change of Mind before your Rector got to the Booths; who can anſwer for? Nevertheleſs to agree and diſagree, — to conſent one Minute and diſſent the next, if it proves any Thing, proves too much.— That there was no Dependance upon ſome People—That they could ſhuffle and cut at Pleaſure, and without a Bluſh — And that they ſeemed only conſiſtent in their Inconſiſtencies. Where there are Numbers, ſome muſt wait; and they who came firſt, ought to be ſerved firſt: But I ſee no Reaſon, why one Party ſhould give Way to the other; unleſs you think yours was entitled to Precedence, becauſe Perſons of Diſtinction they came to ſerve. What made them ſo dilatory in coming, perhaps you may be acquainted

acquainted with: But if they met with ſome little Diſappointment the firſt Day through their own Delays; why did they not take Care to get Poſſeſſion of the Front of the Booths the ſecond? and ſo on, when I am confident they would never have been diſturbed. Till, therefore, you give the World a more ſatisfactory Reaſon, I muſt conclude, that ſome of the New-intereſt Freeholders induſtriouſly abſented themſelves, becauſe they well knew it would beſt turn to their Account.

The Remark which immediately follows 2
is of a very extraordinary Nature. And with regard to your pretended Violation of *Engliſh* Liberty, it muſt be replied in general, that every Buſy-body, every Intermeddler with Matters which do not belong to them, whenever they are checked for their Impertinence, (you ſee I omit the moſt material Circumſtance—the Wickedneſs of the Fact) may with as much Propriety make the ſame Complaint, tho' you do not ſpeak out. It is very intelligible that you would have had the Magiſtrate become a Time-ſerver for your Sake. And as I am ignorant what Authority you may have for your Inſinuation, it can only be ſaid, that a Man of Integrity, if he has nothing to hope for, has nothing to fear for doing his Duty. Nay, I could not have preſumed to have taken the inde- 27.
cent

cent Liberty to paſs the wicked Reflection upon the Higheſt Powers, that they poſſibly can be diſpleaſed with a Magiſtrate for making a proper Animadverſion upon their Want of Conduct, who immediately fall under his Care. But who is not ſatisfied, that ſome Perſons will dare to do, what others would be aſhamed of? Laſt of all, notwithſtanding there may be Variety of Reaſons to prove the Unfairneſs of coming to a Poll through a Back-way: Let it only be obſerved, that had you, and ſome of your Friends, known that every Candidate has a Right to challenge and queſtion every Voter; and that it is an Order, as I am informed, of the moſt venerable Body, that no Perſons ſhould go to the Place of Polling through By-ways, perhaps it might have ſaved your Rector the Trouble of making his improper Reply, and you your incomparable Gingle upon the Doors.

The third Article to be ſpoken to is the Freeholders were entertained. *And why might not this be done at Exeter, as well as New College?* I readily grant you, Sir, all the Advantage you can deſire from the Compariſon, if the Caſes be parallel: The Matter then muſt be examined into and ſtated. New College did entertain their late Members, and their Friends, who came to poll and returned Home the ſame Day, which was nothing

28.

thing more than uſual with that Society, and in Truth every Society at all Times. On the other hand *Exeter* College did entertain many Gentlemen who were not related to them, and likewiſe a promiſcuous Multitude of the moſt low and ordinary Freeholders, who were guilty of much Intemperance and Exceſs. (For I had much rather ſpeak the Truth, Sir, than *deſerve the* 22.
Thanks of ſuch People for my Silence.) Again, it was never imagined, nor ſurmiſed, that New College took one Shilling for their Entertainment. But on the other Side you full well know, Sir, who obligingly defrayed the Charges at *Exeter*. As far as the Caſes be ſimilar, Sir, which you dare not openly aſſert and ſubſcribe your Name to it; ſince you have brought them upon the Carpet, pray make the moſt of them: For if you will do ſomewhat very extraordinary, and pull two Houſes upon your Head at once, who can help it? We are next told that the *ſame Arguments* by which the two 29.
firſt Articles were ſupported, *will hold here likewiſe*. Much about the ſame truly, that is not at all: Wherefore you may look upon yourſelf to be ſo profound a Reaſoner as to conclude, that at leaſt you ought to be dubbed the Ariſtotle of the Age. The Delays in polling which you call unavoidable, are and ever will remain a Reproach to

thoſe who made them with the ſiniſter View to multiply Expences, that the Weight of the Oppreſſion might be long felt, and it is to be hoped much longer remembered. But the Manner you declaim thereupon is too trifling to deſerve any other Notice, than to remind you that there were many Houſes
9. of Refreſhment, beſides the College, and therefore inſtead of crying out, See! how reaſonable the Author is! Will not the World be apt to ſay, See, how he plays the Buffoon!

The fourth Article ſets forth that the College was a Scene of Drunkenneſs, &c.
30. And this, you ſay, *is abſolutely denied.* I can account for this abſolute Denial no other Way, than perhaps there may be a Failure in ſome little Circumſtance of the Caſe, that is, the Fact in ſome minute Inſtance may not poſſibly amount to what is alledged, which you relying upon (viz. Part being defective) according to the ſtricteſt Rules of Argumentation deny the Whole. But ſure this is a very poor Refuge to have recourſe to, and ſeems to be no better than a mere Quibble: And whether you do not after-
30 wards in this very Page contradict yourſelf, ſhall be entirely ſubmitted to every impartial Enquirer. Whoever has been a Witneſs to parliamenteering Affairs, cannot well be unacquainted, that after a publick Entertainment

ment in a private Family, the whole Houſe has been almoſt uninhabitable for a Week: When the ſame Buſineſs therefore is tranſferred to a College, why ought we to think better of it? unleſs the Number of Managers be ſuppoſed to contribute entirely to the Preſervation of Decency and good Order. But this we are told was neither *credible, nor even poſſible*, which we apprehend was never previouſly conſidered; for if it was conſidered, who can account why Men of the Holy Order ſhould think themſelves obliged to be inſtrumental to unavoidable Wickedneſs? After all, notwithſtanding you ſeem to palliate the Matter as much as you well can, you allow enough for me; viz. That there was *Intemperance*, and that ſome People got moderately drunk, that is, not drunk enough, which in Truth was the Caſe. For when ſome went to poll, upon hearing the Oath they ſhrunk back, and returned to College, got a little more elevated and *honeſt*, but not ſo much as to miſtake their Way to the Booths again; yet loſt the Impulſes of Conſcience, took the Oath and polled. This is Fact: And ſure, Sir, you won't dare to deny it, if it be poſſible that you have never heard of it.

30.

30.

But, pray, Mr. Vice-Chancellor, was you yourſelf a Witneſs, &c. The Notoriety, Sir, of the Fact, was ſufficient to juſtify the Vice-Chancellor in ſaying as much at leaſt as you

have aſſerted in your Detail of his Speech. And the ſame Notoriety ſhould have rendered you more cautious than to lay yourſelf open to every Youth of your College to diſprove what you obtrude upon the World and hope to have believed. And the Indecency of this whole Paragraph muſt be left to anſwer for itſelf.

32. *Mr. B— declared, &c.* Notwithſtanding Honour and Conſcience be urged, I wiſh there may be nothing like an Evaſion, or Prevarication in the Declaration itſelf; ſuch a one, as may poſſibly be derived from the Word *vileſt*, whereas it might be only a ſimple Fellow; or from particularizing the Bed, whereas it might be ſome other: For it is obſervable, that here is no plain abſolute Denial that any drunken Man was conveyed to a Chamber either by Mr. *B*—'s Aſſiſtance, or by his Order. And when common Men were enſnared in Temptations, there was no Need of a Denial, *con-*
63. *ſidering the Exigency of* their Condition, *the Humanity due* to their happy Circumſtances, *the laudable Motive you acted upon, and the Protection neceſſary for the honeſt Freeholders.* After all it muſt be confeſſed this at preſent is but a Surmiſe; yet ſuch a Surmiſe as receives no ſmall additional Strength and Support from the Conſideration, that it is beyond me to comprehend, how the Sight of a Depo-

Depoſition can any Ways contribute to the Truth or Falſhood of the Fact. To have produced it indeed might have adminiſtred Matter for cavilling, and to gratify a Thirſt of Revenge; (pardon me, I don't ſay that this was the Intention of Mr. *B*—) as well as for a Man to clear himſelf: And though Charity obliges one to hope that this antecedent Conjecture may be entirely groundleſs; yet the Perplexity of the Caſe equally obliges a cautious Man to ſuſpend his Judgment to prevent all Impoſition. However when the Vice-Chancellor genteelly acquieſced with the Gentleman's Word and Honour; I don't ſee any good Reaſon why Mr. *B*— did not reſt ſatisfied with his own Innocence and Integrity; which would have ſaved you the Trouble, Sir, of making inſignificant Reflections: For I muſt give you to underſtand that an upright Magiſtrate has nothing to fear for making Affidavits improperly; nor for other Miſtakes for want of knowing the Law, tho' it is impoſſible to be ſecure from every Inſult.

As for the fifth Article which contains Extracts out of News-papers, I ſhall take no farther Notice of the moſt horrid Imputation, than lament your unhappy Judgment; for you, Sir, beſt know whether the whole ought to be aſcribed to the Overflowings of a malicious Heart. However, I do declare 34.

myſelf

myſelf not ſatisfied, that Money did not circulate within your College; for I verily believe the contrary: and take my Reaſon for it. Have recourſe to the Table of Facts, and there you'll ſee that Money was diſtributed to the Freeholders in ſeveral Places about *Oxford*. And pray, why not in the moſt convenient Place for that Purpoſe? where it might be given with ſome Degree of Privacy, which it is imagined would be moſt agreeable both to the Donor and the Receivers. In good Earneſt, Sir, it will be preſumed that a Sort of Treaſurer's Office was open in your College, where M— was actually diſtributed to the moſt deſerving and moſt honeſt Friends; till you give us better Satisfaction in the Caſe, than a bare Denial of the Fact. And therefore it is eaſily conceived, why ſome of your Freeholders kept themſelves from the Front of the Booths, and paſſed, and repaſſed the Way they did, notwithſtanding *they might*
36. *be determined how to vote before they entered your College.*

37. *A Crime inexpiable.* Could I think it juſtifiable to copy after the Example before me, and turn Word-catcher; I might tell you that I never read of but one *inexpiable Crime* in my whole Life, which is of an infinitely higher Nature than that which you here ſet forth: But poſſibly you may only mean

mean never to be forgiven by the College; (in which Senſe it is to be hoped that you will be miſtaken:) For I would neither wilfully miſunderſtand you, nor lay an improper Streſs upon a ſingle Word to equal, nay, even to exceed the beſt Remark in your whole Compoſition. Nevertheleſs you muſt be plainly told, that it is much leſs juſtifiable,— it might be ſaid ſuperlatively baſe, to make Facts,—to father them upon another, and then to vilify the reputed Parent for Productions he knows nothing of. And pray, by what Epithet does ſuch a Mal-conduct deſerve to be diſtinguiſhed? This I ſhall leave, Sir, for you to determine, and your Reveries for the preſent till I turn to your 44th Page.

In none did he do full Juſtice. 44.

As you ſeem, Sir, to overlook the great End of Puniſhment, for the Sake of one leſs conſiderable; you are welcome to a few Thoughts upon the Subject, whether you be pleaſed to regard them, or not. Where Property is affected, that is to ſay, when a Man is deprived of his Right either by Fraud or Violence, then it muſt be allowed that the Offender ſhould be obliged to make full Satisfaction to the utmoſt of his Abilities to the Party offended, and withal to ſubmit to proper Puniſhment in order to deter him from the like Wickedneſs for the future.

But

But when the Caſe is leſs criminal, ſuppoſe for Inſtance, it be a perſonal Affront; is a Magiſtrate indiſpenſably obliged to proceed to the utmoſt Rigour of the Law, when he apprehends that gentle Methods may be equally effectual, probably more ſo? And when his Experience in Life, which cannot be ſuppoſed leſs, and there is Reaſon to think may be greater than theirs, who pretend to call him to Account, may have taught him that Leſſon. It is my Opinion, that an affronted Superior, who is far from being neglected in the Puniſhment inflicted upon an Inferior, has much greater Reaſon to be pleaſed that the too audacious Youth can be reclaimed by mild and eaſy Diſcipline; than to be diſpleaſed, becauſe he is not treated as an incorrigible Offender. I am by no Means diſpoſed to take the Advantage the Subject affords; nor would I ſeem prejudiced and labouring to ſupport a Conduct, which muſt anſwer for itſelf, and I truſt, it does: But methinks it would have been no Diſcredit to you, Sir, to have remembered the Difference between Youth and Age; — to have obſerved the noble Rule,—do as you would be done by; — and to have been leſs clamorous for the full Execution of Juſtice. Becauſe you thereby expoſe yourſelf to the Ridicule of all the Youth in the Place, who would be apt to

Reaſon after this Manner. If Contempt of Superiors by unexperienced Boys requires the utmoſt Severity; what muſt the Author of the Defence, who is a Man of Diſtinction and Learning, deſerve for the very ſame Fault (or worſe) which committed by us he would have moſt exemplarily puniſhed?

48. *What has been ſaid*, &c. It is ſtrange that Self-partiality ſhould be ſo very powerful as to induce a Man to think that concluſive in his Favour, which he himſelf would by no Means allow for any other indifferent Perſon: But moſt aſtoniſhing would it be could he find a Second to join Iſſue with him and confirm his Opinion. For my Part I do affirm, and have called none of the black Paſſions to my Aid, that upon the moſt ſerious Examination it does not appear to me that you have proved any one Point you have undertaken. And was I to enlarge upon the Subject, perhaps it might inſenſibly lead me to what ſome Perſons might be apt to call Invective, which it was always my Intention to decline. However, tho' I am unwilling to ſay more, yet here conſiſtently with Truth I cannot well ſay leſs.

50. *Whilſt theſe Inſtances are harmleſs.*

One may well venture to aſſure you, Sir, that the Unacademicalneſs of your late Conduct would never have been complained of,

had your College entertained none but Gentlemen. Then you would not have felt, nor the World have heard of the Ill-conſequences, which attended the general Admiſſion of a promiſcuous Multitude; and which undoubtedly you look upon to be very innocent and harmleſs, becauſe you have told the World, that the College would
23. *act the ſame Part again, was a like Occaſion to offer.* But whether this be ſaid out of an Air of vapouring, or with Sincerity, ſome Perſons may have Reaſon to queſtion. Becauſe either you yourſelf, or one of your Friends, no low Manager in the grand Affair, have privately declared that again you would not go through the ſame diſagreeable fatiguing Scene for the higheſt Conſiderations. Now, Sir, as this private and this publick Declaration are ſo very oppoſite; I want to be informed, without being trifled with, and without an abſolute Denial which Beggar-like I will not take, what I am to think of this apparent Irreconcileableneſs: And whether it be either laudable, or defenſible, or commendable. It muſt be confeſſed that I continue at preſent of a quite different Opinion, than to pronounce your Conduct harmleſs: But how ſoon I am to be changed, I don't very well know. It has been the common Cry of every Age to complain of the Badneſs of the Times, becauſe

cauſe Mankind moſt ſenſibly feel what is preſent: And theſe *Times* you tell us *we do not make*. But if the Times make us, and we are irreſiſtibly to ſubmit to them, it is to be feared that they will quickly make us worſe. And pray, Sir, who may claim the Merit of giving the firſt Proof of the Change? 50.

As to the Introduction of the politer and more faſhionable Arts. Men may very innocently, it is to be hoped, be divided in their Opinions about it. Too many Avocations from Study may be more detrimental than the Want of ſome. It is cloſe Application, great Reading, intenſe Thinking, and the ſtudying of Men and Manners, which are abſolutely requiſite to make the fine Gentleman, and the great Man. And without Doubt it will be well conſidered, whether a Nation has not ſunk in Figure and Reputation both at Home and Abroad in Proportion as they have neglected the Improvement of the Mind for too univerſal an Attachment to the politer Accompliſhments. To our Sorrow it is known that ſome of the moſt fluttering fine Gentlemen, who would be thought to make a Figure as they do a great Buſtle in Life, are ſcarce able to write a Letter of ordinary Buſineſs: How well qualified therefore they are to ſerve their Country in the moſt important Stati- 51.

ons, you ſhall judge. But the Management of the Affair is left to wiſer Heads: And it is no Inſtance of Modeſty to inſinuate to the Univerſity obliquely what they ſhould do.

After all the Vice-Chancellor muſt have a ſtroke or two more, and next be proved inconſiſtent with himſelf. And here who can help being concerned, that there is a Man who rather than not force his Governor to appear in the moſt ridiculous Light will be guilty of the groſſeſt Falſhoods, which comparatively ſpeaking the whole Kingdom can contradict? Were not the Scholars cloſely confined for three Days at leaſt? And if ſo, with what Degree of Truth can it be ſaid *that the Vice-Chancellor iſſued out his Orders by Way of Parade and merely for the Sake of making an Appearance of Diſcipline, but with a ſecret Intention that no Notice ſhould be taken of them?* A three Days Confinement was much longer than was ever imagined when the Programma was publiſhed. —Much longer than it ought to have been. And therefore it was the Magiſtrate's Duty to ſuperſede his Orders, and not ſuffer his Scholars to be puniſhed by their unreaſonable Behaviour, who were ſtriving to be as extenſively miſchievous as they poſſibly could be in every reſpect. If the Programma was not ſuperſeded either by written or verbal Notice; ſtill the Vice-Chancellor's Intenti-

on

on was very intelligibly known by ordering his own Gate to be opened. And afterwards when farther Care was taken, but more than was deſerved by ſome Perſons, to keep good Order and Decency: The Scholars it ſeems are firſt repreſented as *Violators* of the Law ſuperſeded, and *Deſpiſers* of Authority; and then the Vice-Chancellor is traduced for commending their good Behaviour, as thereby having forfeited *his Dignity, his Diſcipline, his Veracity.* Oh! inſufferable Inſolence! But I will not be provoked by thee: And therefore ſhall leave you, Sir, to the moſt impartial Judge, your own Conſcience. 53. 54.

Notwithſtanding you complain of the Scholars Rudeneſs, I muſt be perſuaded that it was too inſignificant for you yourſelf to take publick Notice of it: Otherwiſe, you would ſcarce have failed to overlook it; as upon all Occaſions your College ſeemed diſpoſed to be on the ſevere Side rather than the merciful. But why *Exeter* College ſhould claim a Privilege to cenſure, and a Privilege to be exempted from Cenſure, it is beyond me to determine: And ſure no weak Perſons will from hence infer, that as Men are apt to run from one Extream into another, the College are turning Methodiſts, which ſhall not be ſuppoſed by me, and think 54.

think themſelves almoſt arrived at a State of Impeccability.

55. The ſecond Inſtance of inconſiſtent Behaviour is entirely your own Production, as much as your pretty Analyſis, by perverting the Intention of the Speaker,—by calling Reproofs Inſults and Abuſes,— and by making only *a particular* Application of the whole, when *a general* one was deſigned; and I look upon it, much more general and extenſive, than what related directly to the Univerſity. So that in Truth I muſt leave you, as unfit to be argued with, to enjoy your own Notion, which you cannot well enjoy without the greateſt Violence to Reaſon and common Senſe.

57. *Let us at laſt appeal*, &c.

Before I can return a proper Anſwer, Sir, to your Expoſtulations, there are ſeveral Points, which want previouſly to be ſettled. Such as, whether a Magiſtrate has any Right to reprove; — Whether his Reproof ought to be conſtrued Calumny and Defamation; — Whether for reproving he ought to be deemed a Breaker of the Statutes, he is the Guardian of, and conſequently a perjured Villain; whether it is juſtifiable for an Academic under Government to invent Facts, to paint them in the moſt odious Colours, to father them upon his Governor, and then vilify him likewiſe for

for his own groſſeſt Language. Theſe Points, Sir, muſt be determined one Way or other, before I can poſitively ſay whether your Expoſtulations be more weak than wicked; or whether they deſerve to be praiſed or to be condemned. According to the glaring Light you indirectly afford me, I muſt pronounce it weak, if you imagine any conſiderate Perſon will believe more than is contained in your Detail of the Speech; and to forge a Tale, if it be but a *Canterbury*, in order to blacken and diſgrace the Character of the Magiſtrate, is ſuperlatively wicked: Be pleaſed therefore to paſs Sentence upon yourſelf according to your real Deſerts, which you know better than any Body elſe, in this momentous Affair.

Too Oſtentatious, &c. 60.

I readily and with Pleaſure agree with you, Sir, and perhaps it may be the only material Point at preſent wherein we do agree, that what you have here wrote of *Exeter* College is by no Means too Oſtentatious. You would not have done the College Juſtice had you ſaid leſs. For their great Examples, who were your late Members, confirm the Truth of it in the minuteſt Circumſtance: Whoſe Continuance among us we have daily Reaſon to pray for in this licentious Age; and I am perſuaded

ed they will be privately ſerviceable to you, if you can fail to interpret their Conduct a living Reproach. Nevertheleſs, if by their kind good Offices you will not be moved to retrieve your Reputation, which may be eaſily done; but will perſiſt in involving others in Difficulties, which they would moſt willingly avoid: You muſt lay the Blame, where in Truth it ought to be laid, upon yourſelves.

60. *What then is their Crime.* Nothing, Sir, which bears any Retroſpect to Ages paſt: But what comparatively Speaking relates to Time preſent. Nothing that fell out before the firſt Day of *January* 1753. But from that Date ſtrange Inſtances of Party-zeal, till an extravagant Scene of Action followed, which at different Intervals has been attended with uncommon Fits of impotent Malice. But is it not a moſt ſurprizing Queſtion, wherein it is implied that you know not what you have been doing for ſixty Pages ſucceſſively? Sometimes indeed a good-natured Perſon would be apt to imagine ſo: Nevertheleſs in Caſe your Defence be judged inconcluſive and airy; ſtill it muſt be allowed to be ſomewhat more than *Vox et præterea Nihil.* However, I am ſatisfied that you put Queſtions for the Sake of your pretty Anſwers; which in ſome Degree confirms my former Intimations relating to

News-papers, tho' then I by no Means laid any mighty Streſs upon them. Neither do I poſitively ſay, that I do now.

No Matter, &c. &c. 60.

Here in a few Lines we have an Inſtance of a very haughty and imperious Character; which is quite contrary to that we conceived, Sir, from your Complaint of *cool Anſwers and an Affectation to talk in a candid Manner:* But Inconſiſtencies it is ſuppoſed are beſt for your Purpoſe. And which ever Side of the apparent Contradiction is the likelieſt Way to give the real Picture, let us join in appealing to the Tribunal of Fame. And with Regard to your malevolent Scrap of Latin— *delenda eſt Carthago*, let us farther appeal whether the preſent Members of *Trinity* College ever endeavoured to raiſe themſelves by Defamation, and by Detraction, and by the Ruin of their Neighbours. No, no, Sir; they are Men of too much Generoſity, Honour, and Honeſty to be guilty either of ſecret or open Calumny, or to copy after the moſt odious Examples. For my part I believe the whole to be wrote for the Sake of introducing the following Queſtion—*Are you offended, Sir, that they lie under the Suſpicion of too much Loyalty?* It is ſaid in truth all Extreams are dangerous: But what you mean, Sir, by too much Loyalty, I know not. I never apprehended any

10. 23. 60.

Man could have too much Loyalty; tho' I don't believe that that Man has one Grain the more, who cries his Ware. Noiſe and Clamour are not; but an exemplary religious Life is the beſt Proof of Allegiance, and the only Security, which with Safety a Prince can rely on. For ſince it is a common Obſervation, that the old Woman, who is apt firſt to call her Neighbours Whore, has been frequently found to be the greateſt herſelf: So if from hence one could deduce a Rule with Regard to the preſent Caſe, it would be eaſy to determine, who is moſt diſloyal; and conſequently our Duty to caution thoſe whom it may concern, to be aware of a Snake in the Graſs. But what is your Reaſon, Sir, for inſinuating that your
60. Governor can be offended at Loyalty, who is every Day giving the beſt Proof of his own, by his Life and Converſation? Inſinuating, did I ſay? Don't you in Effect in
62. the next Page but one call him *Jacobite?* And pray, Sir, what *Occaſion* has he given you to make ſuch a *Reflection?* You know of none by producing none: For after what you have publiſhed, it is impoſſible for you to want Will to produce it; but you want, as you ever will want, unleſs Mother *C—l*, moved by the Inſtigation of a poor Northern Lady, or by ſome infernal Imp, for I do not deny the Agency of evil Spirits, trumps

up

up a Story for to ſet you off, an Overt-act itſelf. It is very juſtifiable therefore to retort your own Words, which you have brought to ſupport your own unwarrantable Forgeries. Sir, *you have laid a Charge againſt the Vice-Chancellor of a Crime of the deepeſt Dye. This you have done without the leaſt Proof, without even the Appearance of a Proof of the Accuſation, as ought to be ſupported by the ſtrongeſt.* More in Abundance ought to be added: But let me quit the Subject, leſt I ſhould forget myſelf, and be hurried away to intemperate Warmth, and therefore take only the following general Obſervation. If the Vice-Chancellor can be ſuppoſed to have exceeded his Authority, tho' with a good Intent, by his late Animadverſions, which is inconceiveable to me: Surely, Sir, you have uſurped an Authority ſubverſive of all Diſcipline and Government with a very ill Deſign. For one Cenſure given, you have liberally returned ten at leaſt, ſet off with the greateſt Acrimony of Expreſſion, till you advanced to an extravagant Degree of Scurrility; till you have repreſented one of the beſt Subjects his Majeſty can poſſibly have, and who never before Yeſterday was reckoned a Party-zealot, to be the moſt abandoned, pitiful, ſneaking Rebel. I appeal to the World for the Truth of the Obſervati-

57.

58.

on, and doubt not but that the greateſt Enemy to *Oxford*, except one, will ſubſcribe to it. Nay, according to the Faſhion of the Times, when real Worth and Merit are little enquired into, if I could produce the moſt unexceptionable Sponſors to anſwer for me that I am no Jacobite myſelf, which all ſenſible Men laugh at: Nevertheleſs, I might ſafely offer to ſuffer as the moſt paultry one, could you produce a Man of Credit to teſtify that I am miſtaken in my Judgment of the preſent Caſe.

61. *Privy Councellor*, &c.

Here I forbear the ſeveral obvious Reflections, which almoſt naturally obtrude upon the Mind from the Conſideration of the different Stations of the different Parties: But I muſt plainly tell you, Sir, that the Vice-Chancellor neither wants Diſcretion, nor Abilities; and therefore has no need either of your Advice, or Aſſiſtance. Neither did he want Precaution in the preſent Caſe, when All which has happened was eaſily foreſeen, but not dreaded; neither ought it to have been dreaded, for no good Man would ſuffer it to be brought in Competition with the Diſcharge of his Duty: Notwithſtanding it appears that one of your extraordinary Judgment and Qualifications has been retained againſt him.

Had

Had they been as blameable upon this Occaſion, as you have repreſented them. 61.

You ought to have put it, Sir, in your own true Light, and have ſaid, as I myſelf have made you to repreſent them, which greatly heightens the Character in Truth, and which we have omitted, becauſe it exceeds the Original. However, it ſeems at leaſt, that you would have had the Magiſtrate connive at Vice, proſtitute the Dignity of his Office, and cancel all Obligations of Conſcience; (which you do ſomewhat more than humbly *requeſt* — you do in your Manner *demand)*: Rather than deliver his Sentiments, which are liable to be interpreted a Cenſure upon one College, in order to expreſs his Care and moſt hearty Wiſhes for the future Good of many: Tho' ſince it be notorious that That one has even piouſly reſolved to remain irreclaimable.

Suſpicions of Diſaffection, &c. 61.

Suſpicions, Sir, indeed are almoſt endleſs; for unleſs there be very great and unexpected Changes on the one Side, or on the other, they never will be entirely prevented and ceaſe. But Suſpicions the leaſt fomented through Spleen or Self-Intereſt by thoſe who eſteem themſelves Friends are generally the moſt miſchievous and ſore, as Inſtances of Ingratitude. Where there is confeſſedly a Want of Principles, there almoſt a natural Enmity

Enmity will be ſhewn againſt thoſe who are tenacious of them. And as the Profeſſors of Chriſtianity are a ſtanding Reproach to Libertines; the Libertines in their Turn will be always labouring to hurt and wound the Profeſſors of Chriſtianity: Inſomuch that if there be no room to queſtion the Morals of Chriſtians, which always comes from them with a very ill Grace, they will think to do the Buſineſs effectually by an Impeachment of Diſloyalty. And when upon all Occaſions they redouble their Fury, till they render the Imputation as it were indelible; doth it become a Chriſtian to give them Encouragement by little Hints, by faint Hopes that it is not quite ſo bad, by Imprudences, by evil Inſinuations, and by baſe Calumnies? which the common Enemies to human Nature will always take the Advantage of to the Detriment of a religious Education, and the Cauſe of Chriſtianity. Hence then,
62. Sir, may you learn one Way *to ſtop the* Mouths of Libertines by firſt ſtopping your own. Don't imagine I would tempt you to conceal Treaſon. If you know of any, let the Rebel be proſecuted, as he would deſerve, and ſuffer the utmoſt Rigour of the Law. But if it be hard to wound one Col-
32. lege through *the Sides of Mr. B*—— which is far from being the whole Truth of the Caſe: What Crime is it, to ſlander a Body

of

of Men who deſerve better of the Publick for their religious Services than any other Set of Men whatſoever, through no Sides at all, and only by Random and vile Suſpicions, or by ill-invented Plots of Time-ſerving Creatures? Shew as much *Over-zeal* for one Party as you pleaſe;—Juſtify their Circulation of Letters to court Favour, notwithſtanding they have offered an Indignity ſomewhat more than unpardonable;—Nay! Deſcend lower, and juſtify their moſt deſpicable Meanneſs, which they daily exemplify by a Behaviour only ſuitable for common lackey Boys;—Harangues of this Sort will never otherwiſe diſturb me, than as they affect every true Briton who looks beyond things preſent, and laments the Figure his Countrymen will make in Hiſtory: Nevertheleſs at the ſame Time write not againſt thoſe, whom you look upon as Enemies becauſe they deſire Juſtice, in a manner ſomewhat more than cruel and malicious. In a Word, Sir, notwithſtanding the ſad Misfortunes, which poor *Oxford* has long felt and laboured under through the Diſcountenance of the Great and Powerful; through the baſe but undeſerved Imputation of Diſloyalty from Libertines; and through cruel Wounds from unworthy Members, who, tho' they be never ſo ingenious, do always prefer their private to the publick Good: 62.

Not-

Notwithſtanding theſe continued Misfortunes, Sir, let the Conſequence be what it will, I will ever unite with the ſincere Friends of *Oxford* in perſevering inflexibly in our Integrity.

I paſs over what looks like a Recapitulation of your whole Performance, becauſe I have diſtinctly conſidered the ſeveral Particulars already; and they all appear to me
62. to be no better than vain and idle Pretences, unſupported either by Truth or Reaſon. Neither do I think it worth while to ſtop
63. a little till I come to the Word *Mortification*, which I no ſooner reflect upon, than I am ſurprized you can imagine, that what a Gentleman ought to be aſhamed of, ſhould vex and diſturb the Vice-Chancellor: For it is impoſſible for your Compoſition to raiſe any other Paſſion within his Breaſt than Pity for the Author.

Thus, Sir, has your whole Artillery been fired at the Vice-Chancellor, *who was to be*
2. *diſtinguiſhed*, that is, ſeparated, it ſeems, *from the Body over which he preſides*, to be made your Butt: And pray what Execution have you done? Every Shot has whiſtled by him: And every Piece you have diſcharged, has recoiled with ſuch redoubled Fury, that if you do not ſeverely feel the many ſhocking Blows you muſt be inſenſible. And thus in good earneſt doth the Caſe appear to

me

me without the leaſt improper Favour and Affection to one Side, and without any Ill-will and Malice towards the other. But as all Men are liable to Error; convince me of mine; and I am ready to give publick Proof of the ſame Diſpoſition, I would excite in you.

I will not attempt to give the Reader in one View what may be infered from theſe Notes upon your Defence; becauſe it would give me too diſagreeable a Picture of human Nature. And it would be highly imprudent for a Man to multiply his Trouble, when he foreſees that his Labour would but increaſe his Concern. Eſpecially when it is already known which Way my Judgment has carried me both to acquit and to condemn.

In a Word, Sir, it is to be hoped that you will more impartially review your own Performance, and vouchſafe my Notes a ſerious Peruſal. And you will not do me Juſtice, if you ſay that I took up the Pen out of Prejudice againſt *Exeter* College—— out of haſty Party-Zeal — or to ſupport Characters which want no foreign Support — or to ingratiate myſelf with the Vice-Chancellor, — or in ſhort for any other Motive than to give you my real Sentiments upon the Caſe. And if I have any Ways happily contributed to convince you of your

Miſtakes—— (you'll eaſily excuſe a harſher Expreſſion)— which a generous Temper will acknowledge in a publick Advertiſement, and that will be ſufficiently accepted as nothing more can well be expected (for by all Means you muſt be adviſed to conceal your Name) it will be an inexpreſſible Satisfaction to

Your hearty Well-wiſher

And humble Servant.

Oxon, January 10, 1755.